UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-1

April 13, 1925.

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

BIG INCREASE IN ITALIAN HEMP AREA.

The Italian hemp acreage for 1925 is believed to be considerably larger than in 1924, according to a cable from Consul Haven at Florence. The area in Northern Italy alone is reported as 154,000 acres, as compared with a hemp area for all Italy of 173,000 in 1924 and 168,000 in 1923. It is not known precisely what Departments are included in the 154,000 acres reported by the Consul. Detailed acreage statistics for 1924 are not available. In 1923, however, the eight northernmost Departments of Italy together with the new territory, which produced practically the entire Italian hemp crop except that grown in the Naples district in the south, had a hemp area of only 101,000 acres. Provided southern Italy should have a 1925 hemp area no larger than the amount sown in 1923 the 1925 acreage for all Italy would amount to at least 220,000 acres or an increase of 47,000 acres over that reported for last year.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

July 24, 1925

F.S.
HE-2

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

ITALIAN HEMP CROP DAMAGED

Damage done to the hemp crop in northern Italy by recent hail and wind storms will reduce the crop materially below previous expectations, but production is still expected to be greater than that last year, according to a cable from Consul Haven at Florence. In the Ferrara district which produces about a third of the total Italian crop, production is expected to be reduced 25 per cent as a result of the storms, and in Rovigo 15 per cent. In Bologna and Forli the damage was insignificant. According to present indications the crop of these regions is expected to reach 60,000 tons of good quality hemp, the Consul states. Assuming this figure to be metric tons the crop would be about 135 million pounds. The probable crop in southern Italy was previously believed to be about 65 million pounds of good quality both as to color and texture. The total crop for Italy according to these figures would be 200 million pounds which is an increase of 35 millions over 1924. The acreage for all Italy was unofficially estimated in May at 247,000 acres according to Assistant Commercial Attache Osborne at Rome, which would be an increase of about 43 per cent over the 173,000 acres officially reported for last year.

The hemp crop of Russia on July 1 was reported to be slightly above average in condition whereas at the same time in 1924 it was only mediocre, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture. Flax was average in condition this year and slightly below average in 1924.

The hemp area of Czechoslovakia for 1925 is practically the same as that of 1924 amounting to 28,800 acres this year compared with 28,900 acres last. The hemp area of Bulgaria for 1925 is 10,600 acres compared with 8,800 acres in 1924.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-3

August 4, 1925

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

SOUTHERN ITALIAN HEMP AREA RELATIVELY LARGE

Practically half of the indicated 80,000 acre increase in the area sown to hemp in Italy this year, has occurred in Southern Italy in Campagna alone, according to reports from Consul H. D. Finley at Naples, received in the Department of Agriculture. Preliminary figures indicate an area of 95,000 - 100,000 acres compared with approximately 63,000 acres sown last year, or an increase of nearly 60 per cent. The area for all Italy was unofficially estimated in May at 247,000 acres, or an increase of 43 per cent over last year. The acreage in Campagna in the past three years has been as follows:

Division	1923	1924 a/	1925 b/
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Naples	20,250	20,000	32,000
Caserta	32,600	33,000	52,000
Others	10,150	10,000	11-16,000
Campagna	63,000	63,000	95-100,000

a/Various consular reports indicate an acreage approximately equal to that in 1923.
b/Estimate based upon reported increases over 1924 acreage.

The relatively large increase by farmers in the area devoted to hemp in Southern Italy was due to the high prices prevailing in the Naples market for the raw hemp throughout the winter and spring of 1924-1925, according to Consul Finley. The production this year in Southern Italy will probable total 63,000,000 - 68,000,000 pounds as against an average of 57,000,000. The quality of the crop is very good, both in texture and color.

Exports of Hemp

Although the export market at Naples is said to be brisk, exports of hemp from all Italy decreased during the first four months of 1925, as compared with the same periods of 1923 and 1924. In the first four months of this year 42,129,000 pounds were exported while in 1923 and 1924

exports amounted to 50,423,000 pounds and 45,825,000 pounds, respectively. The exports from Naples so far in 1925 have almost equalled the 1924 total in quantity and have already surpassed it in value. The only explanation of this situation, according to Consul Finley, appears to be that the export market is using more of the South Italian hemp and less of the better quality produced in the North.

Declared exports of hemp from Naples to the United States during the past two years and a half were as follows:

Period	Quantity	Value
	Pounds	Dollars
1923	2,006,588	137,919
1924	339,579	81,728
1925 (5 mos.)	321,402	90,776
January	140,564	42,700
February	---	---
March	68,323	18,670
April	44,819	14,233
May	67,696	15,173

Germany, France, Great Britain and the United States continue to be Italy's best customers. Unless an increase in production occurs in other important hemp areas, the South Italian hemp trade is looking forward to a good 1925 season.

Hemp Prices.

Hemp prices on the Naples market on June 25, as compared with those of June 1 and December 1, 1925, are shown in the tables below, the first giving quotations in Italian units and the second, quotations converted to American equivalents. It is important to note that prices in lires have risen steadily since a year ago for all grades quoted. When converted at exchange rates prevailing on the date of quotation, however, the situation is changed materially. Prices are now generally lower than in December, and medium grades quoted are little changed from a year ago. Better grades of hemp, however, and some of the inferior qualities are considerably higher than in June 1924.

NAPLES HEMP PRICES

Original Units

Local Quality Name	Quotation per metric quintal (220.46 lbs.)		
	June 1, 1924	Dec. 1, 1924	June 25, 1925
	Lires	Lires	Lires
Spago da Calzolaio.....	940	1,015	1,095
Paesano Extra Extra 1 chiaro..	915	970	1,070
Paesano Extra 1.....	895	945	1,050
Paesano Vero 1.....	870	935	1,000
Paesano Extra Extra scolorato	715	---	930
Paesano Extra scolorato.....	700	---	900
Spontito 1.....	1,100	1,225	1,400
" 2.....	1,050	1,200	1,350
" 3.....	1,000	1,150	1,300

NAPLES HEMP PRICES

American Equivalents

Local Quality Name	Quotation per ton of 2,000 lbs.		
	June 1, 1924	Dec. 1, 1924	June 25, 1925
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Spago da Calzolaio.....	368.50	400.50	368.50
Paesano Extra Extra 1 chiaro.	358.50	383.00	360.00
Paesano Extra 1.....	351.00	373.00	353.50
Paesano Vero 1.....	341.00	369.00	336.50
Paesano Extra Extra scolorato	280.00	---	313.00
Paesano Extra scolorato.....	274.50	---	303.00
Spontito 1.....	431.00	483.50	471.00
" 2.....	411.50	473.50	454.50
" 3.....	392.00	454.00	437.50

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S
HE-4

August 31, 1925

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

ITALIAN HEMP CROP OF GOOD SIZE AND QUALITY

The August harvest of hemp in Italy is completed, according to a cable to the Department of Agriculture from Consul Remillard at Rome. The production for all of Italy is estimated to be equal to, or larger than, that in 1924, when 163 million pounds of hemp were harvested. The crop in southern Italy, according to the American Consul at Naples, will be one-third larger than last year when approximately 60 million pounds were produced. No definite estimate of the northern Italian crop has yet been received, but earlier reports have indicated a production fully as great as last year, although considerable damage from storms has occurred in the Ferrara and Rovigo district. Production in northern Italy last year amounted to approximately 103 million pounds. Consul Remillard in his cable reports that the quality of the crop is good both in northern and southern Italy and that weather conditions have been satisfactory.

European stocks are reported generally exhausted. The Italian crop is arriving on the market slowly and prices are firm, according to Consul Remillard. Spage plain was quoted on August 24 at lire 1180 per quintal ($19.91 per 100 lbs.); special at lire 1230 ($20.76); extra, lire 1130 ($19.07); very extra, lire 1150 ($19.41). Consul Haven at Florence reports Italian spinning mills paying full prices, with Primo Bologna natural quoted in Bolgna at lire 1100 to 1150 per quintal ($18.56 to $19.41 per 100 lbs.) for October-December delivery. French, German, and Swiss interest in the Naples market is keen, but present purchases are reported to be for immediate need only.

Declared exports of hemp from Italy for the month of June, 1925, totalled 5,083,808 pounds, of which 224,870 pounds were exported to the United States. Exports to the United States for the past two and a half years have been as follows:

	Pounds
1923	2,006,588
1924	339,579
1925:	
January	140,564
February	---
March	68,323
April	44,819
May	67,696
June	224,870

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
u Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

September 9, 1925

F.S.
HE-5

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

MEXICAN SISAL SELLS AT OLD RATE

After lowering the price to 8 3/8 cents per pound for July shipments, Mexican sisal interests replaced the old rate of 8½ cents aboard ship at Progreso for August sales, according to a cable to the Department of Agriculture from Consul H. C. Vogenitz. The price to growers dropped to 6½ cents in August against 6¾ cents received during June and July. August shipments totaled 62,960 bales of which 58,060 bales were for American account. July shipments reached 61,619 bales of which 40,754 came to the United States. Many of the August shipments were purchased at the lower July rate for future delivery. Stocks on September 1 amounted to 50,945 bales against 40,777 on August 1.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

September 30, 1925

F.S.
HE-6

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

WORLD HEMP SITUATION

Information received in the Department of Agriculture, up to the end of September, indicates a world hemp fiber crop considerably in excess of production in 1924. Official estimates of the acreage in five foreign countries, combined with the area in the United States, give a total hemp acreage for the six countries amounting to 410,000 acres compared with 277,000 acres in the same countries in 1924. These countries last year represented about half the world's hemp area excluding Russia, but only about one-eighth of the world acreage with Russia included. All countries reporting to date, except Czechoslovakia, show increased acreages. The Russian crop is treated separately below. Detailed figures on area and production estimates received up to September 30, are given on page 3.

The crop in Italy, the world's largest hemp fiber producer aside from Russia, and from which most of our hemp imports come, will be larger than that of 1924, which amounted to 163 million pounds, according to cable reports from Consuls Romillard at Rome, and Brown at Genoa. Official estimates now place the Italian acreage at 57 per cent greater than that of 1924 compared with a 43 per cent increase estimated earlier in the season. Production in the provinces of Naples and Caserta in southern Italy is placed at 70 million pounds from 85,000 acres. This confirms an earlier estimate from the Consul at Naples placing the total southern crop at one-third larger than the 60 million pounds produced last year. The area still unreported in southern Italy has been estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000 acres. No figures on production are yet available for northern Italy, but production will undoubtedly be larger than in 1924 in spite of the early season storm damage. The large increase of acreage over 1924 now officially reported more than offsets the damage to the crop.

Poland, which usually ranks next after Italy in hemp fiber production, has not yet reported hemp acreage. The condition of the growing crop at the end of July was generally satisfactory. The state of the crop in Yugoslavia was very good in the middle of July, the latest date for which a statement is available. With an increase of about a third in acreage for that country the harvest may be expected to be well above last year. Condition reports also available for Czechoslovakia, Lithuania and Japan through the middle or end of July report growing conditions as generally favorable to the crop.

The only countries to report production, aside from the United States and Russia, are Bulgaria and French Morocco, both of minor importance in hemp fiber production. French Morocco reports an increase of about 100 per cent in production for 1925 as compared with 1924, but Bulgaria reports a decrease of about 16 per cent, as shown in the table below.

Russia, according to available figures, last year accounted for about three-fourths of the world's hemp area. Estimates for this year put out by Russian official sources indicate a crop much larger than that of 1924. The Agricultural Commissariat reported to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome that the acreage for the Soviet Union excluding the Ukraine, White Russia, Transcaucasia and Turkestan, was 13 per cent greater than in 1924. A statement to the International Institute of Agriculture indicated that growing conditions in Russia at the end of July were slightly above average in the regions where the crop is grown principally for fiber and this is more than borne out by an estimate of a production of 486,000 short tons equivalent to 972,000,000 pounds compared with 306,000 short tons or 612,000,000 pounds for 1924, received by the Russian Information Bureau in Washington.

The importance of Russia's hemp crop to the outside world at the present time is difficult to estimate with the present dearth of reliable trade statistics for that country. The Commercial Yearbook of the Soviet Union for 1925 quotes an estimate that 16,000 tons (kind of ton not stated) should be available for export from the 1924 crop. This would be equivalent to 32,000,000 to 35,000,000 pounds. The "Russian Review" of September 15 states that during the first three quarters of the fiscal year 1924-25 3,798,000 gold rubles' worth of hemp were exported as compared with only 1,148,000 gold rubles' worth in the same period of 1923-24. Prices of hemp were higher for the 1924 crop than for 1925 but not enough higher to account for a big difference in total value. This statement seems to indicate, therefore, that exports from Russia for the 1924 crop exceeded those for that of 1923. The United States has imported no hemp from Russia for the past five calendar years. In 1913, however, about a sixth of our imports were from Russia.

European stocks of hemp fiber were reported generally exhausted in August and the Italian crop was arriving on the market slowly. Prices were firm at that time, but have since fallen sharply. Hemp from the Province of Ferrara, according to a cable from Consul Brown at Genoa, dated September 24, was being quoted at prices ranging from 650 to 700 lira per quintal ($12.00 to $13.00 per hundred pounds). Prime Bologna natural was quoted in Bologna at lira 1100 to 1150 per quintal ($18.56 to $19.41 per hundred pounds) a month earlier for October-December delivery. Naples prices, according to Consul Brown, for the past two months were as in the table given below. The quality, color and texture of the hemp crop in Southern Italy is good, but the quality in Ferrara is poor as a result of bad weather, according to the Consul.

HEMP PRICES: Naples, 1925

Grade	Quotations in lire per quintal		Quotations in dollars per hundred pounds	
	Aug. 24	Sept. 24	Aug. 24	Sept. 24
Spago special.....	1230	970	20.76	17.95
Spago plain.....	1180	920	19.91	17.03
Extrissimo.....	1150	900	19.41	16.66
Extra.....	1130	800	19.07	14.81

Conversions at exchange of the day - Federal Reserve Board

HEMP: Acreage, 1924 and 1925

Country	1924	1925 a/
	Acres	Acres
Yugoslavia.....	61,900	87,000
Bulgaria.....	8,800	10,600
Italy.....	173,500	271,800
Czechoslovakia.....	28,900	28,800
French Morocco.....	2,000	4,900
Total above countries...	275,100	403,100
United States.....	b/ 2,150	7,000
Total above.....	277,250	410,100
Total all countries reporting 1924.....	2,353,000	

a/ Provisional. b/ Excludes 20 acres in Kentucky.

HEMP: Fiber Production, 1924 and 1925

Country	1924	1925 a/
	Pounds	Pounds
United States.....	1,760,000	5,200,000
Bulgaria.....	4,750,000	3,990,000
French Morocco.....	1,760,000	3,530,000
Total above countries.....	8,270,000	12,720,000
Total all countries reporting in 1924.....	1,030,800,000	

Compiled from International Institute of Agriculture except United States which is taken from "Wisconsin Hemp Order".
a/ Preliminary estimates.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-7

October 20, 1925.

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

FOREIGN HEMP CROPS

The Polish and German hemp areas for 1925, just reported to the Department of Agriculture by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, bring the total 1925 hemp area for all countries, so far reporting, up to 525,000 acres, as compared with 392,550 acres for the same countries in 1924. The Polish area of 106,800 acres, however, is little changed from the 106,300 acres of last year, and the German area is reduced from 9,000 acres in 1924 to 8,100 this year. Poland is usually the third most important producer of hemp.

Production reports received up to October 19th, excluding that for Russia, total 32,560,000 pounds compared with 25,840,000 pounds for the same countries last year. This figure includes the 1925 estimate of 19,840,000 pounds for Czechoslovakia and that of 17,570,000 pounds for 1924.

The International Institute of Agriculture has reported generally favorable conditions except for the drought in Italy during August. The harvest is completed in Yugoslavia and the yield is considered good. Hungary expects a good average crop and the quality of the crop in the Union of Soviet Socialists Republics is reported better than last year.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

October 24, 1925

F.S.
HE-8

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

ITALIAN HEMP MARKET DULL

Very little demand from European sources is being felt for Italian hemp, and the market is relatively dull with a drop in prices anticipated, according to a cable just received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Dominian at Rome. Italian spinners have begun buying first quality hemp at Naples, but only in a small way. Although the harvest has been completed no official information as to production is yet available.

The Naples market is reported as showing a lack of fine hemp, although the best fiber from the southern Italian crop is coming onto the market more rapidly than inferior grades. The southern crop is stated to be satisfactory in color, but lacking in tensile strength. The quality of the crop in Bologna province is reported to be good.

Italian exports of hemp for nine months ending September, amounted to approximately 27,940 short tons of raw hemp, and 2,280 tons of fine hemp, of which about 1,500 tons of raw hemp and 485 of fine hemp were shipped to the United States. September exports to the United States amounted to 11½ tons of raw hemp and about 1 ton of fine hemp.

Bologna prices as of October 20 to 22 for morelli buoni were equivalent to $14.45 to $15.90 per 100 pounds, and for partiti buona to $14.64 to $15.36 per 100 pounds. Naples prices, as of October 22 with comparison in previous months were as follows:

HEMP PRICES: Naples, 1925

Grade	Quotations in lire per quintal			Quotations in dollars per hundred pounds		
	Aug. 24	Sept. 24	Oct. 22	Aug. 24	Sept. 24	Oct. 22
Spago special...	1230	970	985	20.76	17.95	17.60
Spago plain.....	1180	920	930	19.91	17.03	16.62
Extrissimo.....	1150	900	900	19.41	16.66	16.08
Extra.....	1130	800	870	19.07	14.81	15.55

Conversion at exchange of the day - Federal Reserve Board.

SPANISH HEMP PRODUCTION DECREASES

The hemp area in Spain for 1925 is estimated at 17,300 acres as compared with 15,000 acres last year, according to a cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture. Production of hemp fiber, however, shows a decrease of 26 per cent from last year, being placed at 17,853,000 pounds for 1925 as compared with 24,180,000 pounds for 1924.

THE JUTE CROP OF INDIA

Although the 1925 jute crop in India is estimated by the Indian Department of Statistics to be 7,851,328 bales, an average of estimates by the trade in Calcutta is around 8,500,000 bales, according to Assistant Trade Commissioner Sabine at Calcutta. Practically no stock was carried over from last year, and if the liberal buying last year by Continental Europe, especially in Germany, is maintained, overseas demand will probably reach four million bales, states "The Near East and India" for September 24, 1925.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-9

November 21, 1925

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

WORLD HEMP FIBER SITUATION

Official estimates of increased hemp production for Italy and Poland just received in the Department of Agriculture from the International Institute of Agriculture, together with additional estimates of acreage and production for minor producing countries, confirm previous indications of an increase in 1925 world production of hemp outside of Russia. Since scattering reports for Russia also continue to indicate increased production for that country, which last year is supposed to have accounted for three-fourths of the world's hemp area. World production, therefore, may be expected to be materially above that of 1924.

Reports on the quality of the crop are less favorable. Wigglesworth and Company in their annual report on the Italian hemp crop states that early reports of an excellent quality have not been realized owing to the large area affected by hail and to wind damage. The fiber is better grown, stronger and longer than last year but there is little spinning hemp. There will be a large quantity of second rate hemp. Wigglesworth states that there is a larger amount of "stick" in the good marks than is usually permissible. Bologna hemp in general is not nearly so fine as last year nor is the color so good, although the fiber is strong. Ferrara and Veneto hemps compare better with last year than the Bologna. In Naples the quality is said to be far below the previous crop, containing a great variety of fiber both coarse and fine. The hemp is also shorter. The color of the first crop is not bad but the seed hemp is badly discolored because of heavy rains at the time it was being prepared.

No definite statement is available as to the quality of the Russian fiber. A report on the Russian flax situation by Commercial Attache Meyer at Riga states that the weather during October was abnormal, impeding the gathering of the fiber and also causing some deterioration of the quality. Although the important flax and hemp districts do not coincide, it is probable that these conditions have also affected the hemp crop, causing the quality to run poor even though the quantity may be large. The same report speaks of poor October weather conditions in Lativa. Lithuania and Esthonia which doubtless have affected the quality of the hemp crop there.

Hungarian hemp at the beginning of the harvest season, was reported as fine and of good quality.

HEMP: Total acreage and fiber production

Country	Area 1924	Area 1925 Preliminary	Production 1924	Production 1925 Preliminary
	Acres	Acres	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Italy	173,500	271,800	163,140	257,940
Poland	106,300	106,800	49,190	61,729
Czechoslovakia	28,900	28,800	17,570	19,320
Bulbaria	8,800	10,600	4,750	3,990
United States	a/ 2,150	7,000	1,760	5,200
French Morocco	2,000	4,900	1,760	3,530
Total 6 countries	321,650	429,900	238,170	351,709
Rumania	77,900	88,300		
Yugoslavia	61,900	86,800		
Germany	9,000	8,100		
Total 9 countries	470,450	613,600		

a/ Excluded 20 acres in Kentucky.

DECREASE IN ABACA MANILA HEMP PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

The official report of Abaca stamped and graded in thePhilippines from January to October inclusive tends to bear out earlier reports of a shorter crop this year than last. The amount stamped through October this year amounted to only 996,718 bales compared with 1,238,139 bales in the same period of 1924. A bale weighs on an average about 270 pounds.

SHIPMENTS OF HENEQUEN FROM YUCATAN

Total shipments of henequen from Progreso for the period January to October, inclusive, this year, amounted to 581,921 bales, compared with shipments of 433,110 bales in the corresponding months last year, according to reports from Vice Consul Vogenitz. Total shipments for 1924 amounted to 614,713 bales. The shipments to date seem to indicate that the crop may fall somewhat short of the 800,000 bales expected earlier in the season, although the crop will be considerably larger than that of last year. Stocks at Progreso on November 1, 1925 amounted to 75,629 bales. The weight of the bale varies from 300 to 500 pounds, averaging about 375 pounds.

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